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1. IT'S IN OUR HANDS: STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.

Amnesty International (AI). March 5, 2004.

[Note: Amnesty International has launched a major new campaign to stop violence against women. Besides the report noted in this record, on March 5 AI published a number of country-specific "Stop Violence against Women" documents, including reports about the issue in Belgium, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Poland, Spain, the UK, the USA, and many others. These reports, and other documents, are available at:

<http://web.amnesty.org/mav/actforwomen> .]

Whether in times of peace or war, women are subjected to atrocities simply because they are women. Millions of women are beaten, raped, murdered, assaulted, mutilated and even denied the right to ever exist. At least one in three women in the world will suffer serious violence in their lifetime. This report reveals the multiple causes of violence from armed conflict to family violence and harmful traditional practices that seek to control women's sexuality.

[http://web.amnesty.org/aidoc/aidoc_pdf.nsf/Index/ACT770012004ENGLISH/\\$File/ACT7700104.pdf](http://web.amnesty.org/aidoc/aidoc_pdf.nsf/Index/ACT770012004ENGLISH/$File/ACT7700104.pdf)

[English-language, pdf format, 132 pages]

2. IDENTITY CRISIS: ISRAEL AND ITS ARAB CITIZENS. [Middle East Report No. 25]

International Crisis Group (ICG). March 4, 2004.

Israel's Palestinian Arab citizens—almost 20 per cent of the population—are largely cut off from the geographical, cultural, economic and political mainstream. They enjoy political rights unknown to many in the region but nonetheless are subject to various forms of discrimination, some direct and official, others less so. These affect the three most fundamental assets of democratic society: resources, rights and representation.

http://www.crisisweb.org/library/documents/middle_east_north_africa/arab_israeli_conflict/25_identity_crisis_israel_arab_citz.pdf [pdf format, 46 pages on A4 paper]

3. RECENT CHANGES IN RUSSIA AND THEIR IMPACT ON U.S.–RUSSIAN RELATIONS.

[Heritage Backgrounder No. 1734]

Ariel Cohen and Yevgeny Volk.

Heritage Foundation. March 9, 2004.

The authors argue that there are ways by which the United States and Russia can restore their cooperation on the basis of pragmatism and the pursuit of compatible national interests, including enhancing each other's security, economic ties, democracy, and human rights. Cohen and Volk discuss four "vital interests": 1) the international war on terrorism; 2) developing energy resources; 3) averting a strategic threat to Europe, East Asia, and the Persian Gulf; 4) protecting the United States, including its borders and airspace. They outline possible areas for future discussion and cooperation in these four interest areas, as well as on other issues.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/RussiaandEurasia/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=58234> [pdf format, 9 pages]

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4. COMBATING TERRORISM: FEDERAL AGENCIES FACE CONTINUING CHALLENGES IN ADDRESSING TERRORIST FINANCING AND MONEY LAUNDERING. TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CAUCUS ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL, U.S. SENATE [GAO-04-501T].

United States General Accounting Office (GAO). March 4, 2004.

In this testimony, GAO addresses (1) the challenges the U.S. government faces in deterring terrorists' use of alternative financing mechanisms, (2) the steps that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have taken to implement a May 2003 Memorandum of Agreement concerning terrorist financing investigations, and (3) whether the annual National Money Laundering Strategy (NMLS) has served as a useful mechanism for guiding the coordination of federal efforts to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04501t.pdf> [pdf format, 19 pages]

5. CONTENT CREATION ONLINE.

Amanda Lenhart, John Horrigan and Deborah Fallows.
Pew Internet & American Life Project. February 29, 2004.

This new survey and report from the Pew Internet & American Life Project find that 44% of U.S. Internet users have contributed material to the online commons. More than 53 million American adults have used the Internet to publish their thoughts, respond to others, post pictures, share files and otherwise contribute to the explosion of content available online. The authors distinguish three main groups of active content creators: Power creators are the Internet users who are most enthusiastic about content-creating activities. Older creators have an average age of 58 and are experienced Internet users. Content omnivores are among the heaviest overall users of the Internet. The average age of this group is 40.

http://www.pewtrusts.org/pdf/pew_internet_content_022904.pdf [pdf format, 16 pages]

6. THE UNITED STATES AND IRAQ'S SHI'ITE CLERGY: PARTNERS OR ADVERSARIES?

W. Andrew Terrill.
United States Army War College, Strategic Studies Institute (SSI). February 2004.

The author addresses the critical need to gain the cooperation or at least the passive tolerance of the Shi'ite clerics and community. Such an effort could become more challenging as time goes on, and one of the recurring themes of this monograph is the declining patience of the Shi'ite clergy with the U.S. presence. By describing the attitudes, actions, and beliefs of major Shi'ite clerics, the author underscores a set of worldviews that are profoundly different from those of the U.S. authorities currently in Iraq and Washington. Some key Shi'ite clerics are deeply suspicious of the United States, exemplified by conspiracy theories. These suggest that Saddam's ouster was merely a convenient excuse, allowing the United States to implement its own agenda.

<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/ssi/pubs/2004/clergy/clergy.pdf> [pdf format, 55 pages]

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7. HAITI: PERPETRATORS OF PAST ABUSES THREATEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THE RULE OF LAW.

Amnesty International (AI). March 3, 2004.

At least eight convicted or indicted human rights violators are currently at large in Haiti and must be brought before the justice system immediately, according to this new report by Amnesty International. Convicted human rights violators Louis Jodel Chamblain and Jean Pierre Baptiste ('Jean Tatoune') are currently leading the rebel forces circulating freely in Port-au-Prince. Amnesty International is extremely concerned that international forces present in Haiti have permitted rebel forces led by perpetrators of past abuses to effectively take control of part of the capital.

<http://web.amnesty.org/library/print/ENGAMR360132004> [html format, 9 printed pages]

8. BREAKING THE CYCLE: ENSURING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HIV TREATMENT FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS.

Janet Fleischman.

Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS). February 2004.

Recent international initiatives to provide antiretroviral (ARV) treatment in resource-poor countries have changed the landscape of the HIV/AIDS debate and signal an unprecedented new phase in the struggle against HIV/AIDS. With an estimated 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS and 14,000 new infections every day, access to treatment is a challenge of global proportions. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, almost 4.5 million people need antiretroviral treatment, yet only 100,000 currently receive it. To develop effective treatment programs, national governments, international donors, and community stakeholders should ensure equitable access to HIV treatment and care, notably for acutely vulnerable populations such as women and girls.

[Note: Contains copyrighted material.]

http://www.csis.org/africa/0402_breakingcycle.pdf [pdf format, 21 pages]

9. MIDDLE EASTERN DEMOCRACY: IS CIVIL SOCIETY THE ANSWER? [Carnegie Paper No. 44]

Amy Hawthorne.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP). March 2004, Web-posted February 27, 2004.

Iraq is obviously the overwhelming focus of the Bush administration's policy of attempting to transform the Middle East into a zone of liberal democracies. Strengthening civil society has become a standard part of the U.S. democracy-promotion tool kit worldwide. But aiding civil society abroad is more difficult than it might seem. According to Hawthorne, improving assistance will require policy makers and aid providers to display a level of patience, flexibility, and knowledge of local history, language, and culture that is typically lacking in U.S. democracy assistance. Effective civil society assistance requires a sense of genuine partnership and a vision for change that is shared by donors and civil society organizations.

[Note: Contains copyrighted material.]

<http://www.ceip.org/files/pdf/CarnegiePaper44.pdf> [pdf format, 28 pages]

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10. PAN-ALBANIANISM: HOW BIG A THREAT TO BALKAN STABILITY? [Europe Report No. 153]

International Crisis Group (ICG). February 25, 2004.

Pan-Albanianism is seen by many observers as a serious threat to Balkan stability. A century of shifting borders has left ethnic Albanians scattered across Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Greece. The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), the National Liberation Army (NLA) in Macedonia, and other groups have all waged campaigns of violence in support of enhanced rights for ethnic Albanians. ICG's research suggests that notions of pan-Albanianism are far more layered and complex than the usual broad brush characterizations of ethnic Albanians simply bent on achieving a greater Albania or a greater Kosovo. The "Albanian National Army" (ANA) which overtly advocated a "Greater Albania" agenda, never managed to gain popular credibility. The report concludes that "violence in the cause of a greater Albania, or of any shift of borders, is neither politically popular nor morally justified."

http://www.crisisweb.org/library/documents/europe/balkans/153_pan_albanianism_how_big.pdf [pdf format, 47 pages on A4 paper]

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